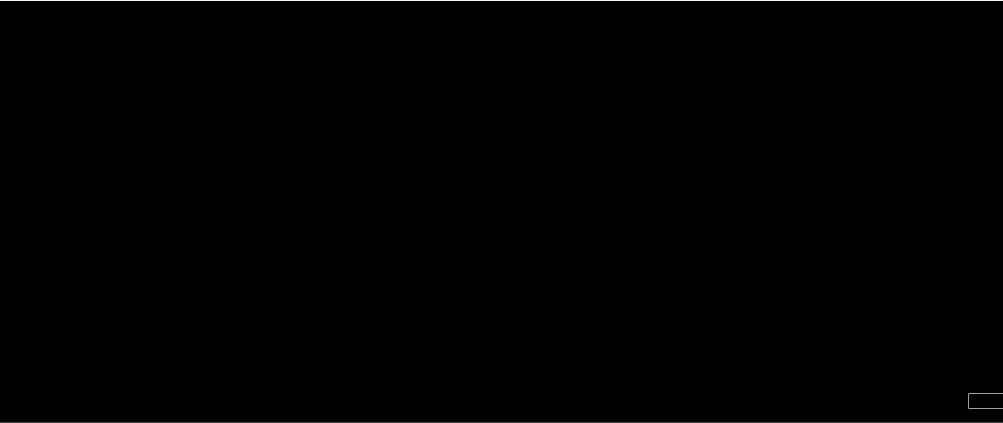


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SUBJECT: EAST ASIA BRIEF OCPAS EAB 92/244 FOR 19 OCTOBER 1992.

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1. CHINA: PERSONNEL SHUFFLE SUPPORTS DENG

PERSONNEL CHANGES ANNOUNCED TODAY AT THE 14TH CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S FIRST PLENUM APPEAR A FIRM VICTORY FOR PARAMOUNT LEADER DENG XIAOPING.

THE NEW POLITBURO STANDING COMMITTEE INCREASED FROM SIX TO SEVEN MEMBERS; GENERAL SECRETARY JIANG ZEMIN, PREMIER LI PENG, QIAO SHI, AND LI RUIHUAN RETAINED THEIR SEATS WHILE THE THREE NEWCOMERS-- VICE PREMIER ZHU RONGJI, TIBET PARTY SECRETARY HU JINTAO, AND PARTY MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION (MAC) VICE CHAIRMAN LIU HUAQING--TIP THE BALANCE TO REFORMERS. ADDITIONS TO THE POLITBURO INCLUDE THE PARTY SECRETARIES OF GUANGDONG, TIANJIN, SHANGHAI, AND SHANDONG, AND THE MAYOR OF BEIJING--ALL SUPPORTERS OF DENG'S ECONOMIC REFORM DRIVE. THE PLENUM ALSO ANNOUNCED A NEW SECRETARIAT, MAC, AND LEADERSHIP OF THE CENTRAL DISCIPLINE INSPECTION COMMISSION.

THE NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY AS THE 14TH PARTY CONGRESS CLOSED WAS SIMILARLY LARGER AND PREDOMINANTLY YOUNGER; PRESS; REPORTS SAY 61 PERCENT OF THE MEMBERS ARE UNDER AGE 55. SEVERAL HARDLINE IDEOLOGUES LOST THEIR MEMBERSHIP, LENDING CREDENCE TO RUMORS THAT THE PARTY'S PROPAGANDA APPARATUS MAY SOON BE RESHUFFLED. THE CONGRESS ALSO ABOLISHED THE CENTRAL ADVISORY COMMISSION, WHICH HARDLINERS HAD USED TO INTERFERE WITH ECONOMIC REFORMS.

COMMENT: DENG WAS ABLE TO COUNTER STRONG HARDLINE OPPOSITION TO THE PROMOTION OF ZHU RONGJI--HIS CHOICE TO EVENTUALLY SUCCEED LI PENG AS PREMIER--WHO NOW ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL TAKE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHINA'S ECONOMY. HU JINTAO IS LIKELY TO LEAVE HIS TIBET POST TO CONCENTRATE ON PARTY AFFAIRS AS THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE SECRETARIAT, WHILE LIU HUAQING--A CLOSE ALLY OF DENG--IS THE MILITARY'S FIRST REPRESENTATIVE ON THE PARTY'S HIGHEST BODY SINCE 1985 AND MAY BE INTENDED TO CHECK THE GROWING INFLUENCE OF PRESIDENT YANG SHANGKUN--NO LONGER A POLITBURO MEMBER--AND HIS BROTHER YANG BAIBING OVER MILITARY AFFAIRS. INDEED, YANG SHANGKUN HAD PRESSED FOR YANG BAIBING TO REPLACE HIM AS MAC VICE CHAIRMAN, BUT YANG BAIBING APPARENTLY LOST HIS MAC MEMBERSHIP ALTOGETHER.

QIAO SHI'S REPLACEMENT AS HEAD OF THE CDIC AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE SECRETARIAT SUGGESTS HE MAY DEVOTE MORE ENERGY TO PARTY AFFAIRS, POSSIBLY UNDERCUTTING JIANG ZEMIN, WHOM DENG HAS REPORTEDLY CRITICIZED FOR GIVING ONLY LUKEWARM SUPPORT TO ECONOMIC REFORM. THE STRONG PROVINCIAL AND MILITARY REPRESENTATION ON BOTH THE POLITBURO AND THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE UNDERSCORES DENG'S RELIANCE ON THEM TO SUPPORT HIS ECONOMIC REFORMS.

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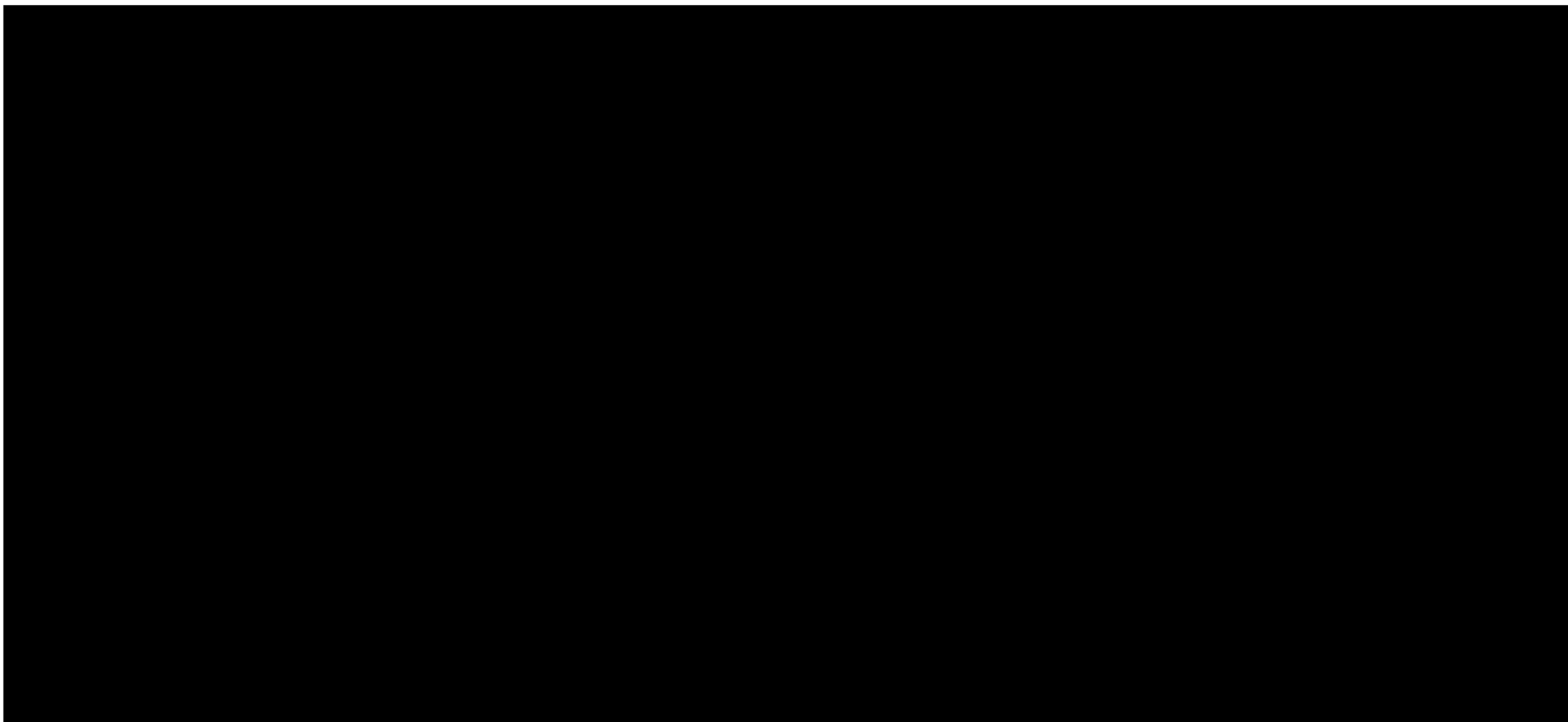
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